



2012 Highway Safety Summit  
May 7-8, Boise, Idaho

# Quick Notes

from the Idaho Office of Highway Safety

October 31, 2011



Idaho Transportation Department - PO Box 7129 - Boise, ID 83707-1129  
P: (208) 334-8100 F: (208) 334-4430 - - [www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs](http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs)

**2011 Fatalities on Idaho Roads = 129\***

## General Message from the Highway Safety Manager

Hi Highway Safety Partners:

No doubt most of you have heard about and probably discussed distracted driving and the many activities that contribute to distracted driving. In a somewhat similar arena, I would like to talk about *drowsy* driving. The information I share with you comes from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Three national telephone surveys, two in the United States and one in Canada, provide consistent estimates of the prevalence and key characteristics of drowsy driving. Of the 1,456 adult drivers surveyed by the National Sleep Foundation, 60% reported that they had driven while feeling drowsy at least once within the past year. Further, 37% said they had nodded off or fallen asleep while driving a vehicle at least once in their life. Canadian responses from 1,209 drivers were similar: 57% had driven while tired and 20% had dozed off. It is interesting to note that 11% reported they had nodded off while driving in the past year. Of those who nodded off, 66% said they had six or fewer hours of sleep the previous night. These surveys found that drivers under age 30, and who are male were more likely to doze off than older drivers and those who were female.

These surveys provide additional useful information about drowsy driving. I find it interesting that driving while drowsy does not just occur late at night. About one-third of those drivers who admit to nodding off say the most recent incident occurred between noon and 6:00 pm. In addition, drowsy driving is not limited to long trips. In the surveys, nearly half of the drivers who nodded off had been driving for an hour or less. It's often difficult to determine whether drowsy driving contributed to a crash. Similar to distracted driving, drivers may be reluctant to admit they dozed off following a crash.

So is drowsy driving a significant highway safety concern? Currently, few studies have examined whether the standard behavior countermeasures of laws, enforcement, and sanctions, which are used successfully for alcohol impairment, seat belt use, aggressive driving, and speeding, are effective for drowsy drivers.

Specific at-risk groups include:

- Young people, especially males under age 26;
- Shift workers. Working the night shift increases your risk by nearly 6 times;
- Commercial drivers. At least 15% of all heavy truck crashes involve fatigue;
- Business travelers who spend many hours driving or may be jet lagged;
- People with untreated obstructive sleep apnea have been shown to have an increased risk.

Drowsy driving is something to think about as long trips are contemplated this holiday season. Keeping everyone awake and focused on their driving and the roadway will be critical as Idaho moves *Toward Zero Deaths*.

Brent Jennings, PE  
Highway Safety Manager  
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## **Joint effort includes PSA featuring characters from popular animated series for children, kids' traffic safety pledge, web-based tools for parents**

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and popular animated series *Chuggington* today announced a new partnership to teach children how to be safe in and around cars. The nationwide traffic safety campaign is geared specifically towards children from the ages of 2 to 7 and includes a public service announcement featuring characters from the show, a kid-focused safety pledge and downloadable tips and activities for parents and caregivers to use with children.

"This exciting partnership with *Chuggington* will help us bring our traffic safety message to young children and parents alike," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "Educating children at an early age about the importance of wearing bicycle helmets, looking both ways when crossing the street and buckling up leads to a lifetime of good traffic safety habits." [More...](#)

## **NHTSA Announces Model Year 2012 Vehicles to be Rated Under Government 5-Star Safety Ratings Program**

NHTSA 17-11, Thursday, October 13, 2011  
Contact: Karen Aldana Tel: 202-366-9550

### ***Auto safety agency unveils list of vehicles to be tested as part of revamped safety ratings program***

WASHINGTON – The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) today announced the lineup of model year 2012 passenger vehicles that will be tested as part of the agency's 5-star safety ratings program. The program's crash tests will provide consumer safety information on approximately 81 percent of model year 2012 passenger vehicles sold in the United States, while rollover tests will provide information on 92 percent of the 2012 fleet.

NHTSA will rate 74 vehicles for the 2012 model year, including 42 passenger cars, 22 sport utility vehicles, two vans, and eight pickups. The testing will be conducted under NHTSA's enhanced program, which was revamped last year to include tougher crash tests and provide consumers with a single overall safety score for each vehicle. A number of model year 2012 vehicles had carry-over designs from the previous year or have already been tested, and these ratings are already posted online. [More...](#)

## **FHWA Announces New Approach to Calculating Vehicle Miles Travelled** ***Revised Methodology Ensures More Accurate Reporting on Key Transportation Statistics***

WASHINGTON - With improved technology and better data collection methods now available in states across the country, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has updated the way it calculates annual vehicle miles travelled (VMT) to ensure the agency more accurately captures key transportation data.

VMT refers to the number of miles vehicles travel over a given time period, and is routinely used to measure traffic on America's roads and bridges and to calculate important statistics including traffic fatalities, fuel efficiency and air quality.

The new methodology does not affect how the federal gas tax is calculated and will not impact Highway Trust Fund revenue or how FHWA distributes highway funds to states.

In 2010, the number and rate of traffic fatalities fell to the lowest levels since 1949, despite a significant increase in the number of miles Americans drove during the year. This new methodology has no effect on overall fatality numbers

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you would like to add an event to the calendar, please send an e-mail with the event details to [lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov](mailto:lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov)

Date	Event Description
Nov. 1, 2011	<b>OHS Grants Final Report and Reimbursement Claim <i>final due date</i></b>
Nov. 12, 2011	<b>Alive at 25</b> , Rexburg City Hall, <a href="http://www.idsafedriver.org">www.idsafedriver.org</a>
Nov. 18, 2011	<b>Alive at 25</b> , Mountain Home High School, <a href="http://www.idsafedriver.org">www.idsafedriver.org</a>
Nov. 19, 2011	<b>Alive at 25</b> , Kootenai County Fire Station #2, <a href="http://www.idsafedriver.org">www.idsafedriver.org</a>
<b>Nov 19-27, 2011</b>	<b>Impaired Driving, Statewide Traffic Enforcement Mobilization</b>
Dec 17, 2011 – Jan 3, 2012	<b>Impaired Driving</b> , Statewide Traffic Enforcement Mobilization
Feb 7 – 20, 2012	<b>Seat Belts</b> , Statewide Traffic Enforcement Mobilization
Mar 10 – 18, 2012	<b>Impaired Driving</b> , Statewide Traffic Enforcement Mobilization
Apr 19-30, 2012	<b>Aggressive Driving</b> , Statewide Traffic Enforcement Mobilization
<i>May 7-8, 2012</i>	<b>2012 Highway Safety Summit – Boise</b>
June 14-16, 2012	<b>Lifesavers Conference</b> , Orlando, Florida, <a href="http://www.lifesaversconference.org">www.lifesaversconference.org</a>
July 19-20, 2012	<b>Northwest Alcohol Conference</b> , Boise, Idaho <a href="http://www.northwestalcoholconference.org">www.northwestalcoholconference.org</a>

**Quick Reference Guide** – click on the topic to go directly to website.

[OHS](#), Office of Highway Safety

[ITD](#), Idaho Transportation Department

[NHTSA](#), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[FHWA](#), Federal Highway Administration

[2010 Idaho Crash Report](#)

Program Area	Idaho State Links	Federal Links
Impaired Driving		<a href="http://www.nhtsa.gov/Impaired">http://www.nhtsa.gov/Impaired</a>
Distracted Driving	<a href="http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs/DistractedDriving.htm">http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs/DistractedDriving.htm</a>	<a href="http://distraction.gov/">http://distraction.gov/</a>
Teen Drivers	<a href="http://www.idahoteendrivering.org/">http://www.idahoteendrivering.org/</a>	<a href="http://www.nhtsa.gov/Teen-Drivers">http://www.nhtsa.gov/Teen-Drivers</a>
Bike & Pedestrian Safety	<a href="http://www.itd.idaho.gov/bike_ped/index_new2.htm">http://www.itd.idaho.gov/bike_ped/index_new2.htm</a>	<a href="http://www.nhtsa.gov/Pedestrians">http://www.nhtsa.gov/Pedestrians</a> <a href="http://www.nhtsa.gov/Bicycles">http://www.nhtsa.gov/Bicycles</a>
Seat Belt Safety	<a href="http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs/ClickIt/ClickIt2.htm">http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs/ClickIt/ClickIt2.htm</a>	<a href="http://www.nhtsa.gov/Driving+Safety/Occupant+Protection">http://www.nhtsa.gov/Driving+Safety/Occupant+Protection</a>
Child Passenger Safety	<a href="http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs/ChildSafety/index.html">http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs/ChildSafety/index.html</a>	<a href="http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS">http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS</a>
Aggressive Driving		<a href="http://www.nhtsa.gov/Aggressive">http://www.nhtsa.gov/Aggressive</a>
Motorcycles		<a href="http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles">http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles</a>
Senior Driving		<a href="http://www.nhtsa.gov/Senior-Drivers">http://www.nhtsa.gov/Senior-Drivers</a>